

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-07
INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06
OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07 PA-01
PRS-01 /107 W

-----041514Z 052306 /45

R 041327Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4215
USINT BAGHDAD
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY ANAKARA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0427

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, IZ, LY
SUBJ: IRAQI OIL DELEGATION VISIT TO LIBYA

REF: BAGHDAD 0538 (NOTAL)

1. VISIT IRAQI OIL DELEGATION NOT REPORTED TRIPOLI MEDIA,
AND LOCAL OILMEN NOT AWARE ANY SUCH VISIT. IRAQI OILMEN
MAY HAVE BEEN DENIED ENTRY TO LIBYA LAST WEEK OF MARCH
ALONG WITH OTHER OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL VISITORS FROM
IRAQ, SYRIA, LEBANON AND EGYPT. WE HEAR THAT LIBYAN ENTRY
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REGULATIONS FOR CITIZENS THESE COUNTRIES NOW DIFFERENTIATED
ENOUGH TO PERMIT ENTRY AT LEAST SOME OFFICIAL
DELEGATIONS.

2. HAD IRAQIS DISCUSSED MEDITERRANEAN/AFRICAN CRUDE
MARKET HERE, THEY WOULD PROBABLY HAVE HEARD FOLLOWING:
LIBYAN PRICES, TOGETHER WITH OTHER LIGHT, LOW-SULFUR

AFRICAN CRUDES FROM ALGERIA AND NIGERIA, ARE AMONG HIGHEST IN OPEC -- REFLECTING SUSTAINED AND GROWING DEMAND FOR THESE CRUDES, PRIMARILY IN U.S., BUT ALSO IN WESTERN EUROPE. SPOT PRICES FOR LIBYAN CRUDES ARE SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER THAN OFFICIAL PRICES, AND TREND IS UPWARD. (LOCAL OILMEN JUDGE THAT LIBYA WOULD PROBABLY HAVE LITTLE DIFFICULTY IN APPLYING ADDITIONAL FIVE PERCENT PRICE RISE THIS SUMMER.)

3. WITH DEMAND THIS STRONG, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT RESUMED SHIPMENT KIRKUK CRUDES WOULD CREATE ANY MARKETING PROBLEMS FOR LIBYANS. LIBYAN 36 GRAVITY SARIR CRUDE, WHICH IS SOMEHWAT WAXY, MAY BE DIRECTLY COMPETITIVE WITH KIRKUK, BUT LIBYANS REQUIRE BUYERS OF LIBYAN HIGHER QUALITY CRUDES TO TAKE SARIR AS WELL IF SARIR MOVING SLOWLY. IN SUM, IF KIRKUK MEDITERRANEAN CRUDE IS COMPARABLE IN QUALITY, IRAQ SHOULD BE ABLE TO CASH IN ON A VERY STRONG MARKET WITHOUT DISTURBING ALGERIA AND LIBYAN OAPEC (AND PROGRESSIVE FRONT) PARTNERS.
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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